# **Building a Light Mass Detector**



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Phys 290e 15/09/16



#### The low-mass WIMP Direct Detection Challenge



#1 Design Driver for a Light Mass
Dark Matter Detector :
A Massive Detector with Amazing
Energy Sensitivity



#### **Calorimeter Basics**



#### **Calorimeter Sensitivity**





### **Calorimeter Optimization**

 $\sigma_{\langle E \rangle}^2 = Ck_b T^2$ 

- Minimize T
  - **Dilution Refrigerators can cool** ٠ detectors to 5mK
- Minimize C
  - -Small Volume
  - Low TInsulators Freeze out

$$C = \frac{\partial E}{\partial T} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial \beta} \frac{\partial \beta}{\partial T} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial \beta} \frac{-1}{k_b T^2} \qquad \text{tr}_{constrained}$$
$$= \left(\frac{\sum_i E_i^2 e^{-\beta E_i}}{\sum_j e^{-\beta E_j}} - \langle E \rangle^2\right) \frac{1}{k_b T^2}$$

States with  $E_i >> k_b T$  aren't thermally accessible, and don't contribute to the heat capacity

### Excitation Collection and Concentration

 $\sigma_{\langle E \rangle}^2 = Ck_b T^2$ 



Collect non-thermal excitations in a sensor with small volume & small heat capacity before they can thermalize

#### **Athermal Phonon Sensors**





#### Phonon Signal Bandwidth



#### **Transition Edge Sensor: Dynamics**



#### **Transition Edge Sensor: Noise**



DC noise scales with G

# Bandwidth Optimization Rule $\nu_{sensor} < \nu_{signal}$



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#### New: G23R Sensor Bandwidth





# Why is it taking so long?

What are the fundamental limits in phonon resolution?

#### Problem #1: Parasitic Power

As we lower  $T_{c,}$  we become more sensitive to nuclear recoils, but we also become more sensitive to environmental noise





### **Resolution Limits: Parasitic Power**

SAFARI has created devices with x75 smaller G & x9 smaller P<sub>bias</sub> than we require



	SuperCDMS (modeled)	SAFARI (measured)
Тс	30 mK	111 mK
G	12800 fW/K	170 fW/K
P <sub>bias</sub>	76 fW	8.9 fW
S <sub>NEP</sub>	6x10 <sup>-19</sup> W/rthz	4.2x10 <sup>-19</sup> W/ rthz

We're far from the fundamental limits on phonon resolution due to parasitic power

## Problem #2: W TES Sensitivity Degradation at low T<sub>c</sub>?

- As we continue to lower T<sub>c</sub>, does the W TES lose sensitivity? Does it become impossible to fabricate?
- Who knows?
- 100mK -> 50mK sensitivity remained invariant
- If yes, there are lots of other TES material out there



#### Problem #3: Base Temperature

- Dilution Fridge base temperature <  $\sim 70\% T_c$
- Short Term: Definitely an issue for SuperCDMS – UCB 75uW: 35 mK
- Long Term: Shouldn't be a problem
  - New DF at UCB (10mK)

### Summary

- Light mass dark matter detectors need amazing energy resolution
- Ultra sensitive calorimeters:
  - very low T
  - Small sensor volumes -> collection / concentration
  - Final Ingredient: Bandwidth matching
  - Over the next 5 years, there should be huge improvements in detector performance
    - 1eV baseline noise
    - ER/NR discrimination for subkeV recoils

